**Heartland Elementary**

**School Community Council Meeting**

**(Virtual Meeting / ZOOM)**

**Wednesday, March 25, 2020**

**Attendees:** Michelle Whitchurch, Buddy Alger (Principal,) Janiece Atwood (Secretary-prepares minutes,) Orla Davis, Kate Walker, Skyler Hatfield, Robin Ashton, Andrea Robinson (Chair,) Whitney Fenech, Krystine Edwards, Angie Jones (Vice Principal,) Rebecca Simons, Stephanie Berg

**Meeting Start Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Welcome:** Andrea

**Approve Last Meeting Minutes:** Minutes weren't sent out to the whole board (only to Principal and Chair,) so we'll approve them all in May

**Covid-19 Update-**Progress report for online learning

We're making history doing this virtually. Buddy wants to know how families are dealing with this. Ashton-it's overwhelming to do multiple kids by herself at home (her grandkids are in Alta/Alpine.) Andrea-going good, younger kids mostly work independently. Michelle-KG and 8th has the most work-load of all of her kids. Google Classroom is great. Teachers-Hatfield is trying to do it all online, rather than having hard copies due. Steph-mental health is bigger than academics right now. Her youngest (4th) and herself are having a mentally challenging time with this-trying to find a balance. Kate Walker as well. Hatfield ideas-share some meditations, chair yoga, work with pets, take snack breaks. Online show-and-tell once a week, instead of just online programs. 100% of the work doesn't have to be on time all the time, but they're trying to keep kids engaged.

Grades and what to expect: Buddy-grades shouldn't go down because of any limitations. Some aren't working at all, for no apparent reason and that's different (they should expect grades to go down in these cases.) It's more important to keep kids feeling connected and engaged. No punishments for those who are doing their work. We'll still do the "200 Club" and "Student of the Month." Grades won't suffer because of limitations. Zoom meetings are great for kids-seeing and hearing from their teachers. "At A Glance" list of what the teacher wants the week to look like is great because kids can work at their own pace. Loaned 400 chrome books out. Email Buddy with any tech problems, concerns. Still working out logistics, but happy with response from the community. About 30 packets haven't been picked up, but they may have been printed up at home. 'Kajeet' is on back order 4-8 weeks, for those who may not have internet at home. Been problem-solving with teachers about keeping kids engaged. Ideas/suggestions-car parade, neighborhood signs (the student ambassadors are doing this.) Heartland misses them. Other fun suggestions like a bear hunt (stuffed animal in the windows,) maybe have a text/email hotline for families. Kate and Krystine are moving 'Kindness Week' online, activities to do, but not academic, 4/13-the week after Spring break. Michelle suggests simple service projects once a week. Ashton- "Remind" app to stay conncected with her class/parents. Whitney-post online workout classes, Zoom calls-less screen time, get healthy.

**Land Trust Plan**

* Full-time BTS Specialist (Visual Art)
* Computer Teacher
* Music Teacher
* Any additional distribution would be used to provide professional development for teachers, cost of substitutes, and purchase additional technology for students

We've heard very little about money amount. Sounds like about same as last year (approx. $63,000.00.) Proposal after taking it to teachers-hire Bev Taylor Sorenson (BTS) full time-Ishell Hertz, and continue to pay our computer and music teacher (3 full-paid employees.) Hard to hire a teacher for PE. Surprisingly difficult to find special skill-set and disposition. Teachers prefer covering their own PE class as long as we can hire computer and art. Rather than 4 "specials" rotations like current-we'd only have 3 consistent ones (T, W, and Th.) Instead of Mondays because often times Mondays are PD day, holidays, short or no school. Next year's calendar has 7 short Thursdays. A lot more Monday and Friday schedule interuptions. **OR** we could rotate schedule at half-year (example-if you had ART Mon, now it would be Tue...) Hertz also works at Majestic Elem and they want her full-time, but she loves Heartland, so if SCC agrees, we can probably lock her in.

Any extra money-if we got more than we expect, after 3 salaries-his idea would be to pay for subs, PD, more chrome books (technology)-not just ipads. Could we hire full-time subs? -yes, but their salary is almost as much as a regular teacher. We've only been in that predicament about 11 times (not worth paying a full-wage employee when we can just use Orla, aids, etc. who can sit in on a class in a binding situation once in awhile.)

Commit to have significantly less meetings that are "required" and held during the school day so that we can use less subs. The day is just not as effective for learning, regardless of how great the sub is, how great the teacher planned the lessons, etc. A lot of times, subs don't even use the lesson plans the teacher left for them and this is frustrating. The district doesn't want to address the subs and aids topic. Not their concern, even though teachers attempt to address it at each meeting, they're shut down.

Maybe we could use our extra funds to hire some of our past teachers (for instance-hypothetically subs get $90.00/day to sub; maybe we can pay $120.00 if they're previous teachers and better-qualified than a regular sub.) Yes pay for Hertz, she's always willing to tie her project in with teachers' curriculum and use her as an Integrative Specialist because she's a teacher. BTS pays half her salary, but we would put her to work M-F; she could help with Excel, sub on a day she doesn't have art class, etc. We would totally utilize her. There are lots of "Specials" options; Land Trust doesn't care who/what specialists we hire so we can swap up the rotations if we don't agree music, art, and computers are best work-based learning, financial skills.

**Vote: One half-time licensed, plus 2 25-hour assistants. (More details to work out in the future.) All vote yes, none oppose.**

**Professional Days (PD) Next Year**

This has been a blessing for Heartland to improve instructional time; however, his intent is to cancel those after this year. General feeling from teachers-they want more time with kids to put everything into practice that they've learned. No more half-day Mondays next year. Those Mondays can be good to have back, they served their purpose and thankful to the community for allowing it, but now to implement the findings; they're happy and ready to go back to our old normal.

**Misc. Items**

How realistic is the thought that we'll go back to school this year, 2019-2020? He hopes these changes we've made are fast enough, he's hopeful we go back, but his hands are tied. To not come back would be a real disappointment. He doesn't know the likelihood, but he's hopeful.

**Future Agenda Items** (Rebecca)

* Discuss which specials we do next year
* Next year's Title I Plan
* TSSA Funding
* Overall school improvement plan
* Orla is working on enrichment packages-ideas for the future, extension opportunities for our advanced learners

Email Buddy or Andrea with any other ideas

**Meeting Adjourned: 6:14 p.m.**

**Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 6th, 2020**